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90th Year JANUARY, 1940 51 No. 1

LAYMEN'S SCHOOL

A laymen's conference in the form of a school for church officers will be held under the auspices of the Laymen's Commission of the Conference on Sunday, February 25, at the Pacific School of Religion.

From many churches has come the request that the experience of church officers should be pooled in order that the administration of local church affairs might have the benefit of the best work that is being done in any one church. Heeding this request, the Laymen's Commission, under the chairmanship of Mr. C. T. Tinker and with a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Peirce Coombes, Mr. George S. Martin, and Mr. E. B. Kientz, has arranged for a one-day school. Beginning at 9:30 Sunday morning, February 25, there will be a half hour of fellowship and community singing which will be followed by an address by President A. C. McGiffert, Jr., of Pacific School of Religion. There will then be talks and discussion led by Field Secretary Sherman, Superintendent Gill, and Chairman Tinker. Dinner will be served at noon, presumably at the North Congregational Church.

During the afternoon, the laymen will separate into groups, one for deacons, one for trustees or treasurers, and one for those interested in religious education. The methods that have proven most successful will be set forth and discussed, and outlines will be prepared in advance so that each man will have something quite definite to take home. The closing inspirational address will be delivered by Rev. Vere V. Loper of the First Congregational Church of Berkeley.

Each church within driving distance is asked to send at least four laymen. In this group should be at least one deacon, one trustee or the church treasurer, and one Sunday school worker. It is desired that as far as possible these be young men who will soon be called to leadership if they have not already been called. There will be no expense other than the cost of the dinner. Delegates can come from within a radius of 100 miles, returning the same day, as the sessions will close at four or 4:30 in the afternoon. Ministers, key men, and the churches themselves are urged to exercise the utmost care in the selection of those who are to come in order that the greatest possible benefit may accrue.

SOCIAL ACTION PLANS

As one of its first projects, the state Social Action Committee is setting out to call to the attention of Northern California churches the report of the governor's Commission on Re-employment. The report contains a careful analysis of the unemployment problem, followed by recommendations of specific, practical measures for meeting the problem in California.

The Social Action Committee feels that this report merits careful consideration and study on the part of thinking Christians. Copies of the report can be obtained from the office of the Re-employment Program, 180 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco. That office will also supply further aid, in the way of study materials and resource men, as the commission itself is desirous of having widespread and thorough democratic discussion on its report.

Lorbeer of India Coming to N. Cal.

A number of California churches will be especially fortunate in the coming of Mr. Lloyd L. Lorbeer, principal of the Boys' School at Pasumalai, India. Mr. Lorbeer was special speaker at the Spring Association meetings several years ago and is regarded as one of the most effective men doing a missionary job on the field and presenting it at home on furlough. He was educated at Pomona, Union Seminary, and Columbia University. He has been in India more than 20 years. After considerable correspondence, the Missions Council has granted 19 days of his time to northern California churches, and his schedule is now being made by the Conference office.

In addition to his administrative work, Mr. Lorbeer travels hundreds of miles annually, by bus, car, train, bicycle, and on foot, among the country folk, supervising, counselling, and encouraging Indian pastors, teachers, and small isolated Christian groups. He has studied the problems with which India is seething. He sees home rule making great strides, and barriers which have divided castes crumbling. Economically and religiously India is on the move. "Nowhere in the world are such varied groups being welded into a nation as there are in India," he declares.

PASTORS MEET

The annual Pastoral Conference, together with the E. T. Earl Lectures of the Pacific School of Religion, will be held February 20 to 22. Dr. Walter Marshall Horton, professor of Philosophy of Religion at Oberlin College, will give the annual lectures on the Earl Foundation, on the theme, "Jesus Our Eternal Contemporary." Dr. Horton is known through his many books and is regarded as one of the foremost theologians of the country, although he is still a comparatively young man. Dr. Harold S. Bosley will also give a course of lectures on the Earl Foundation. He served for some years as Professor of Philosophy and Director of Religious Activities at Iowa State Teachers' College, and is now minister of the Mt. Vernon Methodist Church in Baltimore. His general theme will be "The Logic of Religious Discovery."

Bishop Karl Morgan Block will give a course of lectures on the subject, "Preaching to Life Situations." Dr. Fritz Kunkel, Mr. Frank McCulloch, Rev. V. V. Loper, Rev. Albert E. Day, President Albert W. Palmer, and Dr. Karl Beth, the last-named formerly of Vienna, will be special speakers. Members of the Faculty will offer seminars.

Congregational ministers will have one noon luncheon together for consideration of our common problems.

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

To develop within its membership, by its teaching and by its ministry, the spirit which was in Christ, and which drew into His fellowship all manners and conditions of men.

To be to its own people the abundant source of spiritual guidance and refreshment, to emphasize the worth of worship, prayer and meditation to the individual, and to be "as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land" to its people in their time of need.

To impress upon its membership the need of loyalty to one another and charity towards one another's shortcomings, for it is by these virtues, or the lack of them, that the sincerity of our Christian profession is measured by the world outside.

To accept as individuals, a full share of responsibility in the life and work of the church, each according to his powers.

To teach its young people the noble traditions of its past, and to adventure with them in the building of its future.

To be always aware of the needs and conditions in our own community and to be prepared to serve them according to our interpretation of Jesus' teaching.

To justify its existence by working, not alone for its own preservation, but by spending itself in the cause of social justice, peace and enlightenment at home and abroad.

—Anonymous.

FOR USE IN FAMILY DEVOTIONS

THE PACIFIC *is publishing these prayers at the request of the State Conference, in the hope that pastors will get them into the hands of their people for daily use. Those in the December issue were provided by Rev. Jason Noble Pierce. Those published herewith were furnished by Rev. Noel J. Breed.*

* * * * *

BLESSING BEFORE MEALS

Our Father, we thank Thee for this food;
Bless it to our use, and us to Thy service.—Amen.

A MORNING PRAYER FOR A FAMILY

Dear Father, we thank Thee for the rest of the past night, and for the opportunity of this day.

We thank Thee for health and strength, for food and shelter, for work and play, for friends and family.

Because of all that we enjoy, we would love Thee more and serve Thee better, by sharing more fully with those less fortunate.

Help us to be honorable in our conduct, considerate in our relations with others, mindful at all times that we are Thy children.

May we meet bravely and unselfishly whatever the day brings us; and, when evening comes, may it find us more worthy of Him Whose Name we bear, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.Amen.

"FORWARD"

"Forward Movement in the Churches:" this is to be the official name of a Conference Committee if the request of the Committe on Evangelism and Church Life for a change in its name is granted by the Board of Directors. Headed by Rev. Gail Cleland who was elected chairman, this committee believes that the time has come for encouraging pastors and churches to set up goals for the year 1940. The Committee is cognizant and appreciative of the Program of Progress sponsored by the Committee on Religious Education, and earnestly desires to adopt one point in the Program of Progress as its own responsibility. Letters are to go out to the pastors, outlining practical procedures which will surely strengthen our entire work during the coming year. Ten per cent net gain in membership in 1940 is one challenge to which every church is called. Twenty-five per cent gain in church attendance in 1940 is another goal practicable of attainment. Adopt the Program of Progress and work at it, is a third that should have our attention.

The committee points out that one church in an over-churched town during the month of December had an increase in attendance of 40 over the same month a year ago. Another church has received 150 new members since last May. Still another has concentrated on the attendance of men, and the number of men in the congregation has risen to 35 per cent and 40 per cent of the total. These are not impossible tasks. Information will be published in THE PACIFIC and will be sent in letters from time to time, telling of success that is being achieved and the methods which have been used. In addition to the chairman, Rev. Gail Cleland, the members of the committee include: Rev. Jason Noble Pierce, Rev. Godfrey Matthews, Rev. H. S. Mahood, Rev. Clarence Reidenbach, Rev. E. W. Benedict, and Professor William H. Davis.

P. S. R. INAUGURATION

In order that people from afar may participate, the inauguration of President Arthur Cushman McGiffert of Pacific School of Religion will be held on Monday evening, February 19, just preceding the Pastoral Conference. The inaugural address will be given by President McGiffert and not by President Palmer as was mistakenly reported in the December issue of PACIFIC. Greetings will be brought by representatives of educational institutions and various denominations. The service will take place in the First Congregational Church of Berkeley.

A Good Buy

The *Missionary Herald* in its new form continues to attract interest. Every month the Conference office is sending a goodly number of subscriptions. Only 25c a year pays for 10 issues, each one well illustrated, attractively written, and telling of the great work being done by our fellowship around the world. Subscriptions may be sent to the Conference office along with your PACIFIC subscriptions.

To Evanston

Superintendent Gill expects to be absent from the office from the 23rd of January until about the fifth of February, in attendance at the midwinter meetings at Evanston.

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Decided Success

The Midwinter Pilgrim Fellowship Conference at San Mateo, December 27-29, was a decided success. There were two full days of study, fellowship and fun, under inspiring leadership. The weather was good. Overnight entertainment in the homes of San Mateo, San Carlos and Redwood City was adequate, and food, recreation, and classes were well-nigh ideal. Rev. and Mrs. Sidney H. Buckham were exceptionally fine hosts.

The spirit of the conference was serious and the morale good. There was a total attendance of 150, of which 84 were high school age and 32 college age. The rest were faculty members and other adults. One hundred and twenty-seven of the total were there for the full time.

Rev. Fred Morrow acted as director in place of Rev. Elmer Benedict, who was ill. Miss Mary Fulmer, state president of Pilgrim Fellowship, presided at a number of the meetings. Special speakers were Rev. Vere V. Loper, Rev. S. C. Peabody, and Rev. Jason Nobel Pierce. The theme of the Conference was "The Bible: Light for Our Times." There were five discussion groups: "The Gospel of Mark," led by Rev. W. R. Steininger; "The Old Testament Prophets," led by Rev. Gail Cleland; "The Psalms," led by Rev. Godfrey Matthews; "The Sermon on the Mount," led by Rev. G. Arthur Casaday; "Old Testament as History," led by Rev. Clarence Reidenbach. Rev. Verdette Walters conducted the communion service, and Mr. Lawton Harris gave his usual splendid leadership in recreation and devotions. Worship services were conducted by young people of First Berkeley, Redwood City and Stockton.

TOO EARLY TO REPORT

Nineteen thirty-nine apportionment figures will not appear until the February issue. Books of the previous year were held open until January 10, and copy for THE PACIFIC had to be in the hands of the printer and we hope it will be mailed before that date. In February there will be the church-by-church report on regular benevolences and also on Thank Offering.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 15—Board of Directors of the Conference, at the Conference office.
February 9—World Day of Prayer.
February 15-16—Annual meeting of Federation of Congregational Women, Plymouth Church, Oakland.
February 19—Afternoon—Social Action Conference.
February 19—Evening—Inauguration of President A. C. McGiffert.
February 20-22—Pastoral Conference, Pacific School of Religion.
February 25—Laymen's Conference, Pacific School of Religion.
March 24—Easter.
August 14-15—State Conference, Berkeley.
August 15-22—General Council of Congregational and Christian Churches, Berkeley.

We Hail Them

Northern California churches and pastors are receiving notice in national publications. In the current issue of the "International Journal of Religious Education" there is a report of the interesting service developed by Rev. Fred R. Morrow of Saratoga, as a dedication of a Christian flag. In the January "Pilgrim Highroad" is more than a two-page article under the caption of "Young People Seeking a Better World," giving three talks at a youth service held during Youth Week at the First Congregational Church of Ripon, where Rev. Robert A. Bentley is minister. One talk is on "A Warless World" by Jeanette Edinger, a high school freshman; one is on "Better Use of Leisure Time," by Alta Ellis, a high school senior; and the third is on "Knowledge About Marriage and Home Life" by Grant Cross, a college freshman.

Plymouth House Program

Rev. G. Arthur Casaday, director of Plymouth House, reports the following program among University of California Congregational students, reaching an enrollment of about 120: a drama workshop; a current events discussion group; a contemporaneous literature discussion group; a group discussing religious problems; another developing devotional leadership; an open house; and a fellowship followed by a forum. The officers and cabinet plan their work well and very high caliber students have been enlisted.

CONGRATULATIONS

A very large number of friends in northern California will be interested in learning that Rev. Roy Campbell, formerly pastor in Palo Alto and in Oakland Calvary Church, who has been pastor of the First Congregational Church of San Diego for many years, has resigned, effective February 1. He had announced plans for retirement but has been persuaded to accept the call to the Central Church of La Mesa. A five-year plan for spiritual enrichment of the community has been submitted by Dr. Campbell, and approved by the congregation; and according to Superintendent Gaylord, the new movement will make the La Mesa Church one of the most influential in the San Diego district.

Rev. Charles D. Milliken

Rev. Charles D. Milliken, known and beloved in many northern California churches, quietly passed away in the early morning of December 29 after several years of impaired health following a paralytic stroke. Mr. Milliken was born in Littleton, New Hampshire, a little more than 76 years ago. He was a graduate of Dartmouth College and of Yale Theological School. He was ordained in Canaan, Connecticut, which was his first pastorate. In 1898 he came to California. He was pastor at Sonoma and of the Cupertino Union Church. He spent 12 years in the Hawaiian Islands as pastor at Waimea, Kauai. In 1916 he was called to the Piedmont Community Church where he served 10 years. After his retirement in 1926 he served as stated supply at Sonoma, Alturas, Porterville, and Tulare, and did occasional preaching elsewhere. He was unmarried, and the only near relative who survives him is a brother, Edward R. Milliken of Pasadena.

Mr. Milliken was the incarnation of courtesy and gentleness, broad-minded and brotherly, a man who will be deeply and richly remembered by a great circle of intimate friends. Funeral services were conducted on January 2nd in the Piedmont Community Church by the pastor, Rev. Richard E. Shields, and by Superintendent Gill.

A. S. L. NOW C. T. F.

"The California Temperance Federation, Inc." is the new name for the church-controlled temperance movement in California. After months of study by a special committee on reorganization, the California State Board of Directors of the Anti-Saloon League has unanimously voted this change.

The action is far more significant than a mere change of name. It includes a broadening of the program and an expansion of the organization, which it is hoped constitute a long step forward.

In addition to the representatives of the cooperating church denominations (who will constitute two-thirds of the Board of Directors), the W. C. T. U., the Church Councils, Women's Federations, Men's Clubs, Men's Brotherhoods, all temperance organizations and groups will be invited to designate representatives for election to the State Board of Directors of the California Temperance Federation, Inc., so that there may be a genuinely united and coordinated temperance movement in this state. The Board of Directors of the Anti-Saloon League, in thus changing the name and revamping the constitution of the League, has now gone the whole way in its effort for unity in purpose and cooperation in action.

The Congregational elected representatives are Rev. Gail Cleland and Mr. George S. Martin. Rev. Norman W. Pendleton is the superintendent for northern California and is editor of *The Liberator*.

Contagion of Hymns

One dark night a missionary was traveling on the outskirts of a territory untouched by Christian influence, so far as he knew, although looked upon by the young Chilesso church as its responsibility. He heard Christian hymn tunes. Investigating he found a young man from one of the few Christian villages near that section who had carried the gospel message in song, and a goodly group had caught the contagion of the music. The Chilesso church which now has some 2600 members, maintains often that it was first led to allegiance to "The Name" through the influence of Christian hymns. In Mt. Silinda, Rev. and Mrs. John S. Marsh report taking two Christian African women to a conference under another mission where 3000 other native Christian women lived three days in conference on religious matters. They had planned and carried through the entire affair without the help of missionaries.

Leaflets Available

Rev. T. Torrance Phelps of Pioneer Church, Sacramento, in reply to inquiry from a number of pastors, wishes to announce that he can furnish copies of leaflets, which he has so successfully used in his appeal for church members, at a reasonable cost. He finds that "Wake Up, America," and "Why the Church," are very effective. The former can be secured at 50c a hundred and the latter at $1.00 a hundred. Orders should be sent to him at 2700 L Street, Sacramento.

Rev. E. W. Stoddard

For some unaccountable reason, word of the death of Rev. Eugene Warren Stoddard which occurred July 21, 1939, did not reach the Conference office until a few days ago. Mr. Stoddard was a graduate of Amherst College and of Andover Theological School, and held pastorates at Haverhill, New Hampshire; Valley City, North Dakota; and at Martinez, California. For many years he had been engaged in teaching, and was principal of the Vacaville Union High School until his retirement a few years ago. He is survived by his widow and also by a son and a daughter.

MORE NEWS NOTES

BERKELEY, CHINESE. At a special communion service conducted by Superintendent Gill, three young people were baptized and five received into membership in the church. A capacity audience was present for a lovely Christmas program in which a group of young people presented a version of "Why the Chimes Rang." Dr. B. C. Wong is serving as pastor.

OAKLAND, FIRST. A very worth while Every Member Canvass, following the plans of Field Secretary Sherman, resulted in an increase of subscriptions from individuals amounting to 20 per cent over last year. Rev. Clarence Reidenbach, the pastor, works diligently in pastoral calling, and has been in every home in his parish, some of them many times when sickness and other duties called him.

TULARE. Reports of the annual meeting reflect a year of substantial progress. Membership gains were the largest in any year of the present pastorate. Major improvements have put the church building in excellent condition. Large congregations participated in three Christmas services. In January Rev. Arthur L. Rice will complete five years as pastor.

EUREKA. Fifteen new members were received into fellowship on the first Sunday of December. The sum pledged for benevolence has been increased by vote of the church at the annual meeting. Rev. Charles H. Hudson is pastor.

A subsequent letter tells of a class received December 17 of 12 more new members.

SONOMA. An inspiring Christmas pageant of "Peace" was presented by the Sunday School, with musical interludes by the choir. The every member canvass was successful, and the year will close with a balance in the treasury. Rev. E. W. Perry is pastor.

RENO, NEVADA. White gifts were given by the Sunday School to be distributed to needy homes in uncared for areas of so-called "ghost towns" in the State of Nevada. Rev. William Moll Case, the pastor, provided Christmas vespers over Station KOH.

ADIN. For the first time in years, the church put on the entire Christmas program for the community. Rev. A. W. Monosmith, the pastor, has been assisting in agricultural experiments in the district.

PORT CHICAGO. Under the leadership of Mr. Elmo Peterson of Pacific School, the splendid work begun by Robert Cleland is going forward. The Sunday School is crowding the building.

OAKLAND, PILGRIM. December was enlistment month. The budget for the new year was raised. Four new members were received. Rev. Harvey V. Miller, pastor, made 125 pastoral visits.

OAKLAND, BETHANY. Rev. V. H. Yessayan, the pastor, has been ill for several weeks, and during his absence the deacons have supplied the pulpit.

SUNNYVALE. Rev. J. K. Ballou who accepted the pastorate recently is now located in the community and beginning his work under auspicious circumstances.

PITTSBURG. Rev. Elmer W. Benedict, who was confined to the hospital, has recovered and has returned to his pulpit.

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES ON THE JOB

PORTERVILLE. Rev. John H. Gregg believes that if a slump in church attendance comes that that is the time to do something about it. Finding that all of the churches of Porterville were having difficulty in getting attendance after summer vacation, an effort was organized under Mr. Gregg's leadership. A full-page ad in the local paper, underwritten by local businessmen, appeared. Six thousand handbills were distributed. Three hundred placards were placed in store windows. A visitation of all church members in the community was set up. As a result a tremendous lift was given to all seven churches cooperating, and the average morning attendance of our church for the five Sundays of December was 200. Twenty-five new members united on December 17, making a total of 47 for the year and 243 during the present pastorate.

REDWOOD CITY. The year 1939 was a successful one for the Women's Guild, with an average attendance of 73 for its meetings, ranking first in this respect of all community organizations. A Biblical play on "The Boyhood of Christ," by Otis Carrington, who has served the church in many ways during his lifelong membership, was presented during the holidays to a crowded high school auditorium. Christmas was observed by the Sunday School at an evening Christmas tree entertainment and a service of song. Rev. Charles E. Ward is pastor.

FRESNO, FIRST. The annual meeting was largely attended. It revealed that all departments of the church are flourishing. More young people are included in the Youth Church than were in organizations prior to its formation. The Forum has been well attended and carries its own expense. Forty-three members were admitted during 1939, bringing the total to 450. The occasion was especially significant because it marks the tenth year of the pastorate of Rev. Norman Henderson.

STOCKTON. Sunday morning attendance continues to show improvement, with 201 at a recent service in comparison with 187 the corresponding Sunday a year ago. For the same two Sundays, church school attendance had risen from 108 to 166, and among the young people from 25 in one group to 60 in three groups. A Christmas Eve midnight candle-light service was held, making much use of carols and other Christmas music. Rev. Noel J. Breed is pastor.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALVARY ARMENIAN. Fifty new copies of "The Christian Service" song book have been secured. Splendid congregations were present at the Sunday morning services during December and a fine party was held Christmas Eve for the children. Rev. H. K. Khachadourian calls on many Armenian people each month, drawing no distinction between those who are members and those who are not members of his church.

SAN FRANCISCO, GRACE UNITED. The contract has been let for the completion of the roofing of the parsonage and the rear end of the church building. Four new members were welcomed on the first Sunday of December. Rev. Dillon W. Throckmorton is pastor.

BERKELEY, PARK. Mrs. Tom Watt, wife of the pastor, has been quite seriously ill in the hospital. In spite of this, the Christmas program of the church was carried through with fine services and attendance.

BERKELEY, NORTH. Two hundred old friends and members of North Church gathered on December 3 for a homecoming day. Luncheon was served following the morning service. Charter members and honored guests were welcomed. A history of the church in the form of a radio broadcast was an interesting feature of the program. The young people of the Beacon Club launched the first issue of a newspaper entitled "Beacon Light." It is a four-page news sheet, well written, and supported by subscriptions and advertising. Rev. Pierson Parker, the minister, spent the holidays in the East, attending a meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis, where he read a paper. Rev. Ralph B. Larkin, former pastor, occupied the pulpit for two Sundays.

BERKELEY, ARLINGTON AVENUE FELLOWSHIP HOUSE. Nearly 200 white gifts were given for the migrant workers. A community Christmas program, with Superintendent Gill as speaker, was held on the afternoon of December 17. A junior high school group will hold meetings from three to five each Sunday afternoon hereafter. Plans are under way for a young married people's group. Considerable interest has been shown in the purchase of a splendid property on Arlington Avenue by the Conference as the prospective site for the location of a new Fellowship House and chapel. Mr. Dan Wilson is the director.

SAN CARLOS. At a unique service at the vesper hour Christmas Eve, there was a pageant of the madonnas, with mothers of the cradle roll department posing with their babies as living pictures representing the great historic paintings of that subject. The pictures were interpreted by Mrs. Harold Sorg, well-known radio star, and were given an appropriate musical setting. Four new members were received during the month. An order has been placed for an electric organ. Rev. H. J. Loken is pastor.

RIPON. Subscriptions to the 1940 budget show an increase over those for 1939. Rev. Robert Bentley, the pastor, has taken a ballot on the most helpful sermons preached during October and November as a guide to his future efforts. During the Advent season his sermon themes were drawn from the Gospel of John, on: "The Light of the World," "The Truth That Makes Men Free," "The Resurrection and the Life," and "Believing on the Life."

OAKLAND, FRUITVALE. Congratulations and sentiments of appreciation continue to come to Rev. J. B. Orr, following the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination. At a dinner on January 10 the means will be provided for paying for THE PACIFIC for all of the families of the church. The January issue of the "Friendly Page," published by the church, was devoted largely to recognition of splendid work during the past year.

GRASS VALLEY. A portion of the church has been re-roofed and a blower attachment has been made to the furnace to give better heating in winter and to serve as a cooler system in summer. The church plans to entertain the Sacramento Valley Association this spring. Rev. Herschel Fravel is the pastor.

FAIRFAX. Two new members were received during December. Forty baskets were taken by the Dorcas Society as Christmas presents to the County Farm. Rev. Charles L. Mears, the pastor, again ministered at San Quentin prison.

MARTINEZ. Several children were baptized at the Christmas morning service, and 15 new members were received into fellowship, making a total of 23 for the year. Fifty-four people, including juniors and youth, participated in a candle-lighting service before a church packed with people. The Nativity scene, the Coming of the Wise Men, the Calling of the Apostles, the Spreading of the Light by Them, and representations of the Christmas Spirits of Faith, Hope, Love, Joy, Peace, and Truth, were presented. The light from the candles held by the "apostles" was touched and retouched until every person in the congregation had a lighted candle as he left the church. Rev. Verdette Walters is just completing his first year as pastor.

SEBASTOPOL. The Christian Endeavor conducted a watch night service, which opened and closed with devotions. There was an impromptu debate on "New Year's resolutions." Rev. George E. Atkinson, pastor, had received many calendars from all over the country and they were hung around the room, the young folks having first choice, and each person present received at least one.

Reports at the annual meeting indicate that 1939 was one of the best years during the present pastorate, which has rounded out more than a decade. There was a balance in every treasury to start the new year.

SAN FRANCISCO, FIRST CONGREGATIONAL METHODIST TEMPLE. Seventeen new members were received into fellowship on December 17. A Sunday morning Bible forum has been launched by the pastors, Rev. E. A. Lowther speaking on "Psychology and The Sermon on the Mount" and Rev. Jason Noble Pierce on "Biography and Bible." These forums will run until Easter. A Christmas chorale was presented the evening of December 24, arranged by Dr. Wm. E. Knuth, minister of music.

PACIFIC GROVE. The young people's mission study book for this year entitled "Comrades Around the World" was written by Franklin Mack, who was brought up in this church and is the son of Mr. Silas W. Mack, still a member and leading layman of the church. The Christmas exercises given by the Sunday School were never before excelled, if equalled, in point of attendance, decoration, and program. Rev. Elwood B. Hunter is pastor.

ALAMEDA. An arresting topic for New Year's was used by Rev. Gail Cleland on the last day of the old year: "If I Had My Life to Live Over Again." For the first Sunday in January the topic is, "How My Mind Has Changed in the Last Ten Years." A great Christmas pageant, "The Family at Christmas," was presented December 17. It included the choir, a dramatic cast, and made necessary the transformation of the church interior.

SAN RAFAEL. There has been a fine response to Sunday evening services which were started some months ago by Mr. Merrill Nelson, who serves as pastor. The building has been improved and the improvements paid for, and a slight increase has been made in missionary giving.

BERKELEY, FIRST. The average attendance for the first 12 Sundays of the pastorate of Rev. Vere V. Loper was 650, which, according to actual count, is larger than for the same Sundays in previous years.

CALAVERAS COUNTY. At Angels Camp on both December 17 and December 24, special Christmas programs were held. A beautiful pageant was given, the manger scene having a background of imitation stone, against which a rough shed was built, and photo-flood lights were used. Solos from The Messiah were sung. More than 60 white gifts were received, which were distributed by the Red Cross the following day. The social hall is a busy place, being used by many community groups. At Murphy, Rev. John G. Dickey directed the community Christmas program, in which the Aid Society, the Sunday School, and the local grammar school participated.

OAKLAND, PLYMOUTH. Attendance at morning worship services continues on a high level. A special feature on Christmas Eve was a midnight service of music from 11 to 12. "Christmas In Many Lands," a pageant, was given by the church school on Thursday, December 21. The Well Baby Clinic celebrated its third birthday early in the month. In three years 206 babies have passed through the clinic. At present there are 57 on the active list. This has been under the particular direction of Miss Mary Coxhead. Rev. Robert Inglis, the pastor, with a very interested committee, has been working on possible plans for remodelling the auditorium.

SACRAMENTO. A junior College of Life has been started to supplement the senior group. Both colleges have had an attendance of 75. A children's choir has been organized. Two new guilds have been started to care for the growing membership, also a board of 12 junior deacons and 12 junior deaconesses. The "colony" organization of the parish for contact and fellowship is used. Sixty new members were received into the church on December 17. This makes a total of more than 150 since the coming of Rev. T. Torrance Phelps last May.

SAN FRANCISCO, OCEAN VIEW. The Christmas Sunday School program, in which different classes participated, was very largely attended. There were two large congregations during the month, one when the re-decorated sanctuary was dedicated, and the other on Christmas Sunday. Mr. Byron Eshelman is the pastor.

SANTA CRUZ. Christmas was observed by every group connected with the church. The Women's Club and the Evening Guild held parties, and there was a party for Beginners and Cradle Roll children and their parents. Two Sundays were given over to Christmas music by the choirs. Rev. H. S. Mahood is the pastor.

HOTEL SAN FRANCISCO Stewart
Downtown on Geary Street, above Union Square
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WOMEN'S FEDERATION NEWS

Edited by Mrs. Wm. T. Sadler

At a special meeting of the Federation Executive Board on December 6, it was voted to have our Annual Meeting on February 15 and 16 at Plymouth Church, Oakland.

The usual Federation meeting will be held on January 18. In the absence of our president, who leaves on January 8 for the Indianapolis and Evanston meetings, our first vice-president, Mrs. Scott Haymond, will preside.

OUR PURPOSE

How many of us are familiar with the Purpose of our Federation, as expressed in Article II of our Constitution? It reads: "The purpose of the Federation is to foster Christian service throughout the churches; to cultivate intelligence and interest in the State, National, and International work of the Congregational Churches of the United States in extending the Kingdom of God and knowledge of Jesus Christ; and to enlist earnest and systematic cooperation with the Northern California Conference and to do and promote the work for which the Conference is responsible. The Federation shall also act as a medium of cooperation in interdenominational work." It is interesting to note the practical working out of this purpose as we find it in our Federation today. Loyal service is given by all our women's groups to their local churches; and the whole program of the Federation encourages this. Intelligent interest in our Congregational work at home and abroad is fostered by our Home and Foreign Field Secretaries, by our Mission Study Courses, by National secretaries and American Board missionaries who speak at our meetings. Our social welfare quotas and our thank offering gifts are practical expressions of this interest. The Federation's hearty cooperation with the Northern California Conference shows itself in substantial support of our Trinity County work, and the children's project in San Francisco; by warm clothing sent to the Modoc County Indians through our Alturas Church; by joining in the Annual Conference meeting; by promoting the Extra Dollar Campaign this year. Interdenominational cooperation is shown in our migrant work.

Can we not find inspiration and incentive to greater loyalty and larger service by pondering the significance of this high purpose, and testing our activities by it?

ARE WE TO BLAME?

A recent letter from one of our well-known missionaries in North China, after picturing the suffering of flood victims there, says: "The need is terrific, but for unmentionable reasons the difficulties of distributing relief funds out through the country fields are almost insurmountable . . . " It seems to be suggested in this statement that the present administration in the area interferes with flood relief work. This is something which all fair-minded people deplore, even as they do the bombing of civilians and non-military objectives. The supplying of munitions by this country for carrying on such a war of invasion is certainly an anomaly, and efforts to stop it should receive the whole-hearted support of good people. The Northern California Congregational Conference went on record that an embargo should be put upon the shipment of munitions to any nation at any time, either in peace or in war. Certainly the shipment of gasoline, tractors, and scrap iron and other essential war materials to Japan should be stopped, and our people would do well to write the President of the United States, the Department of State, and our own senators and congressmen.

WOMEN'S GROUPS BUSY IN LOCAL CHURCHES

At the Christmas meeting of the Alameda Women's Union, the Christmas story "How Come Christmas?" by Roark Bradford, was given. Gifts were brought and these were divided between the migrants and our social service work at Grace United. Three comforters had been pieced and tied this year by a group of women. One was sent for the work among the Negroes of Oakland, one to be given by Grace United, and one to Hayfork, Trinity County. The Union voted $10 to ministerial relief. They have paid $1,000 this year to the Sunshine Fund for the rehabilitation of their church.

The eight circles of Oakland First Church Women's League had each pieced a comforter, which at Christmas time was given locally to some needy family. At their Christmas League meeting a mammoth stocking six feet high is filled annually with gifts for the migrant children. This year Miss Helen Perkins took over 200 gifts down to Fresno; also $3.50 in money. Arlington Fellowship House in Berkeley sent an additional 200 gifts by Miss Perkins.

Berkeley First Church women held their annual "Hokupu" of gifts for Modoc County Indians, as usual this year. Result: 159 pounds of warm clothing, etc., including two new comforters, were sent to our Alturas Church for distribution by Mrs. Amy Jarman. North Berkeley Women's Auxiliary also sent clothing and money. We hope many others remembered our needy Indians.

Happy Christmas meetings of all sorts predominate in our December news. The Women's Guild of Pilgrim Church, Oakland, held a delightful Christmas tea at the home of Mrs. A. D. Hartwell. Gifts were exchanged by the members, and donations were also brought for baskets for the needy. A Christmas program was given by Central Circle.

The Women's Society of San Leandro Broadmoor Church held its December meeting at the regular time, with the Christmas story and carols and a tree, and with gifts gaily wrapped for the migrants. They also had a special luncheon in December, with a sale of food, aprons, etc.

For two years the Woman's Association of Berkeley First Church has held its Christmas party in the evening so that the Evening Section (business women) could join in it, thus promoting mutual acquaintance and interest. This year a turkey dinner preceded the Christmas program of songs and readings. Gifts for the migrants were brought in.

Mrs. A. D. Hartwell, chairman of our speakers' bureau, has supplied a great variety of speakers to our women's groups. The transportation charge is usually entirely paid by the group representing the speaker; but where distance or other causes make that impossible, some arrangement for partial payment can usually be made.

Mrs. Oscar McCoy, who has been our splendid reading list chairman for three years, feels she cannot continue longer. It has been decided to use the national reading list this coming year, with a supplementary list to be prepared by our secretary of literature, Mrs. Robert D'Erlach. Ripon has sent in the best report for the number of women who have used the federation reading list this year. They have been greatly helped by the librarian of the Ripon Branch Library, who is a member of their church and has seen to it that the books were available and were used.

Each of the eight Circles of the Women's League of Oakland Plymouth Church had an individual Christmas party. Each Circle looks after one family at Thanksgiving and Christmas, among other things giving them a quilt pieced through the year by the Circle.

YOUR NOSE KNOWS!

Your nose knows whether you are approaching a non-Christian or Christian home through the tall grass of South Rhodesia, we are told. Smoke, mingled with less pleasant odors, drifts across stagnant pools where breed mosquitoes. Rubbish heaps draw flies. Inside a dark hut, smoke filled, windowless, you encounter all kinds of obnoxious things that crawl. "Do you wonder these folks sleep with their heads tightly covered by their blankets?" asks Mrs. Elizabeth W. Curtis of Mt. Silinda. But a Christian home—no pools, no rubbish except in a deep pit behind the house. Raised from the ground to keep out snakes, ants and moisture a simple square home has windows and a chimney. Gates keep the live stock where it belongs. A little garden flourishes in front. Plain furnishings, clean but simple food. "I will leave it to you to answer the question 'Does it pay?' " says Mrs. Curtis.

I AM THE NEW YEAR

I am the one unspoiled bit of beauty in God's Universe.

I am Romance, and Glitter, and High Resolution, and—Dreams.

My only Handicap is the dead weight of old Habits and hard-set Ways of Doing Things that I must carry over from the Past into my new Ministry to your heart.

My one Fear is that you also will settle down to the conviction that the New is always an Illusion.

My single hope lies in your chance Faith,

Faith that what has been proved Impossible by long experience can at last be attained;

Faith that Failure is but an incident and not the End of the Journey;

Faith that some day, Mankind will be free from the Shackles of his own forging, Childhood will have its chance, and Love will achieve its God-like Destiny;

Faith that he who said "Behold I make all things new" had somehow grasped the Secret for making His own Dream come true.

Faith that those who share with Him the Adventure of His Self-commitment, shall find the Secret of Overflowing Life.

I am God's plan for Girding the Loins of His intrepid Co-workers in the long, but joyous march to the Goal of his Beneficent Purpose.

I AM THE NEW YEAR.

—(Author Unknown).

On the back of a pledge card handed in at Plymouth Church was the following: "I take the liberty of pledging our loyal service: to do anything, or nothing, anywhere, anytime, or notime, with anybody, everybody or nobody—for the Glory of God and the prosperity of Plymouth Church." If ten per cent of the members of every church would do this, what a victory we would have!

IT HAPPENED AGAIN!

Once again a loyal, interested member of one of our churches, who needs a high income during life from her modest investments, and who wants to see the work of our Congregational churches prosper through the long years after she has gone, has turned over to the Conference the sum of One Thousand Dollars.

She will receive during life a much larger income than stocks, bonds, or mortgages would yield, and with absolute safety. Right through the depression every annuity was paid on time and in full.

After her death there will be some hundreds of dollars left for the work of the Conference.

This is pretty nearly "eating your cake and having it, too."

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